

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) Spray-dried starch hydrolysate agglomerate product, characterised in that the starch hydrolysate has the following properties:

- a dextrose equivalent (DE) between 5 and 35;
- a moisture content of < 6% by weight;
- an unpacked bulk density between 0,4 and 0,6 g/cm³;
- a compressibility of less than 10%;
- a particle size distribution whereby less than 5% by weight is bigger than 500 micron and less than 5% by weight is smaller than 53 micron;
- an average particle size of between 150 - 250 micron;
- a mechanical stability of > 95%;
- a static angle of repose (SAOR) of less than 45°, as a measure for flowability; and
- a dissolution speed of < 180 seconds.

2. (Original) Spray-dried starch hydrolysate agglomerate product according to claim 1, characterised in that the starch hydrolysate agglomerate product has the following properties:

- a DE between 5 and 35;
- a moisture content of < 6% by weight;
- an unpacked bulk density between 0,45 and 0,55 g/cm³;
- a compressibility of less than 5%;

- a particle size distribution whereby less than 3% by weight is bigger than 500 micron and less than 3% by weight is smaller than 53 micron;
- an average particle size of between 175 - 230 micron;
- a mechanical stability of > 97%;
- a SAOR of less than 40 °; and
- a dissolution speed of < 120 seconds.

3. (Original) Spray-dried starch hydrolysate agglomerate product according to claim 2, characterised in that the starch hydrolysate has a dissolution speed of < 90 seconds.

4. (Currently amended) Spray-dried starch hydrolysate agglomerate product according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterised in that the starch hydrolysate has a DE of between 10 to 22.

5. (Original) Method for preparing a spray-dried starch hydrolysate agglomerate product in a spray-drying tower, comprising spraying a liquid material onto a solid powder material, whereby the liquid material is atomised by means of one or more two-fluid nozzles using a fluid for heating and conveying this material, and whereby the agglomerated spray-dried starch hydrolysate is produced by injecting the solid powder material in the top of the drying tower in such a way that the trajectory of the powder crosses the spray pattern of the atomised liquid material, characterised in that the liquid material which is atomised by one or more two-fluid nozzles is a starch hydrolysate

solution, whereby this starch hydrolysate solution is atomised using steam as said fluid.

6. (Original) Method according to claim 5, characterised in that the starch hydrolysate solution has a concentration of 50 - 75% dry matter.

7. (Original) Method according to claim 6, characterised in that the starch hydrolysate solution has a concentration of 65 - 75% dry matter.

8. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~ claim 5, characterised in that the steam has a pressure between 7 and 15 bar.

9. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the claims 5 to 8~~ claim 5, characterised in that the weight ratio of steam versus starch hydrolysate solution is within the range of 0,05 and 0,4.

10. (Original) Method according claim 9, characterised in that the weight ratio of steam versus starch hydrolysate solution is within the range of between 0,1 and 0,3.

11. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 10~~ claim 5, characterised in that the heating air which is introduced in the spraying tower has a temperature between 160 and 300 °C.

12. (Original) Method according to claim 11, characterised in that the heating air which is introduced in the spraying tower has a temperature between 180 and 250 °C.

13. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 12~~ claim 5, characterised in that at the bottom of the spraying tower air is exited which has a temperature between 80 and 125 °C.

14. (Original) Method according to claim 13, characterised in that the exiting air has a temperature between 90 and 120 °C.

15. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the claims 5 to 14~~ claim 5, characterised in that the ratio between the solid powder and the starch hydrolysate solution is between 0,6 and 1,1 on a dry weight basis.

16. (Original) Method according to claim 15, characterised in that the ratio between the solid powder and the starch hydrolysate solution is between 0,8 and 1,0 on a dry weight basis.

17. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of claims 5 to 16~~ claim 5, characterised in that the dry powder is a starch hydrolysate powder.

18. (Original) Method according to claim 17, characterised in that the starch hydrolysate powder is a spray-dried form of the starch hydrolysate solution.

19. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the claims 5 to 18~~ claim 5, characterised in that the agglomerated spray-dried starch hydrolysate particles is brought into a fluidised bed.

20. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the claims 5 to 19~~ claim 1, characterised in that a spray-dried

starch hydrolysate is obtained ~~according to any one of the claims~~
~~1 to 4.~~